6. मेसर्स यूनिफ्लेक्स केबुल्स लि0, 147, सागर भवन, प्रिन्सेस स्ट्रीट, मुम्बई-400002.

7. मेसर्स वी एच ई एल इन्डस्ट्रीज लि0, ए-287, न्यू फेरन्ड्स कालोनी, नई दिल्ली 110065.

8. मेसर्स गुजरात आप्टिकल कम्युनिकेशन लि0, 507, हरेकृष्ण काम्प्लेक्स, प्रीतमनगर, आश्रम रोड, अहमदाबाद-380006.

9. मेसर्स, खुराना टेलीकॉम लि0,प्लाट नं0 214-215, फेज-II आई डी ए चलापल्ली, हैदराबाद-500051

10. मेसर्स प्लास्मैक मशीन मैन्यूफैचिंग क0 प्रा0 लि0, श्यामनगर, माजिवाड़ा, जोगेश्वर (ईस्ट), मुम्बई-400060

11. मैसर्स सीमेन्स, 215/70/2/1, सराय (शाहजी) मालवीय नगर, बाक्स, नं0 7320, नई दिल्ली 110001.

12. मेसर्स आर पी जी टेलीकॉम प्रताप बिल्डिंग, प्रथम तल एन-83, कनाट सर्कस,नई दिल्ली 110001.

13. मेसर्स टेलीमैटिक्स स्टिम्स लि0, पोस्ट बाक्स नं0-978, माउंट पूनमलनी नन्दम बक्कम, चेन्नई-600089.

14. मेसर्स एडवांस रेडियो मास्ट (ए आर एम) 7-13, हबसीगुडा, क्रासरोड, हैदराबाद-500007.

Postal and Communication Facilities in Rural and Tribal Areas

*215. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state what are the details of proposals, projects etc. taken/contemplated by the Ministry to extend better postal and communication facilities to the rural, tribal and far-flung area of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA):

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS

Extension and development of postal service in the country including rural, tribal and far flung areas have been effected through successive Five Year Plans of the Department of Posts, as a result of which the postal network which comprised 24,000 post offices in 1947-48, has now expanded to 1,53,001 post offices. The relevant programmes of development included in the Annual Plan 1997-98 of the Department in this respect are indicated below:

Basic postal facilities including counter services ae being extended to rural, tribal and far-flung areas by opening new post offices. During 1997-98, the targets set for the purpose are:

	No. of Post Offices	
	Rural Areas	Tribal Areas
Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs)	371	129
Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs)	5	10

New Branch Post Offices in rural areas are opened with subsidy amounting upto 66-2/3% of estimated income and this is further liberalised to 85% for tribal and far flung areas. According to population norm a branch post offices in rural area is justified for 3000, but in tribal and inaccessible areas, 500 for a village or 1000 for a group of villages is adequate.

The Department's Programmes for modernisation of services also envisage benefit for rural areas specially in the periphery of urban sectors. The benefit of speedy transmission of money order through VSAT network in the country is now being extended to rural areas with-

the setting up of extended satellite money order counters (ESMOs). 250 ESMOs are already operating and another 350 are planned for the current year to extend

the benefit. Benefit of Hybrid Mail Service will also be availabel to the rural areas through extended VSAT net-work.

Modernisation of material management with introduction of computers is bringing greater efficiency in supply and use of relevant articles of stores benefitting users of postal facilities including those in rural and tribal areas.

Extension of Postal Life Insurance for the rural areas through rural PLI scheme is providing the benefit of insurance coverage in the rural and tribal areas. Computerisation of RPLI in 6 regions and specialised training planned for 34,800 Extra Departmental Agents will specifically extend the benefit of RPLI scheme in the rural area.

Provision of Post Office buildings and staff qurters in rural tribal and far flung aeas is an important plan programme of the Department. During 1997-98 priority is being accorded to completion of 37 post office buildings in rural areas and 15 in tribal areas. Programme to install Solar Photo Voltaic Lighting system in 100 rural Post Offices is also planned during the current year with required technical support from the Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources.

North Eastern Region

In prusuance of the initiatives announced by the Prime Minister for the N.E. region which has large tribal and far flung area, the Department has earmarked 10% of its total annual plan 1997-98 allocation of Rs. 95 crore specifically for plan programmes to be implemented in the NE Region. The programme envisaged for the NE region include the following:

(a) Opening of 50 EDBOs and 5 Departmental sub-offices.
(b) Modernisation of 30 Post Offices and provision of 90 Multi Purpose counter machines.
(c) Computerisation of mail processing systems in identified mail and transit offices.
(d) Computerisation of Savings Bank control organisation in 10 HOs.
(e) Provision of in-service training for 750 official including training for computer operations and other programmes.
(f) Construction of 10 post office buildings.
(g) Construction of 50 staff quarters.
(h) Provision of in-house printing machine to upgrade postal stores depot.

Department of Telecommunications

Department of Telecommunications is putting all efforts to privide better telecommunication facilities in rural areas. Targets for the year 1997-98 are as under.

		Target
(i)	**Small & Medium Exchanges:**	
	Type of Equpt.	
	256 P RAX	3038 819
	512 SEM Exchanges	3423
	Upgradation Kit (128 P to 256 P)	9.5 Lakhs Gross Lines.
	Net DELs	83,000
(ii)	Villages to be covered during 1997-98.	13,500 (out of 83,000) VPTs target as mentioned in (ii) above)
(iii)	Tribal villages to be covered with VPTs.	